

THE CONSTITUTION
OF
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS

THE PREAMBLE

Whereas the Word of God instructs a Christian Congregation not only to conform to the Word of God in doctrine and practice (Psalm 119:105; Galatians 1:6-8), but also to conduct all things decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40), therefore we, the members of Hope Lutheran Church, set forth this Constitution with its Bylaws. This document shall govern all our congregational affairs.

ARTICLE ONE - THE NAME

The name of this congregation shall be Hope Lutheran Church of Friendswood, Galveston County, Texas, a Texas corporation.

ARTICLE TWO - THE PURPOSE

This congregation exists as a community of baptized Christians to provide for the following:

A. PROCLAMATION - As members of the Body of Christ, it shall be our primary mission to proclaim to the whole world the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in word and deed and thereby enlarge the Kingdom of God.

B. WORSHIP - As members of the Body of Christ, it shall be our privilege to gather together to express our praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for His grace and mercy, to be nourished and strengthened by His Word and Sacraments and thus to be built up, and thereby build up one another.

C. NURTURE - As members of the Body of Christ, it shall be our charge

to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus and His will and so be equipped for ministry to each other.

D. FELLOWSHIP - Since the Lutheran Church is a confessional movement within the Church catholic, every encounter between Christians is occasion for mutual edification and nurture through the operation of the Holy Spirit and a chance to give witness to the joy within us.

E. SERVICE - Recognizing that all life is under the Lordship of our Resurrected Jesus Christ, the Christian vocation is therefore discharged in the home, the marketplace, the Church and the state. A Christian seeks to extend justice and social acceptance for all and endeavors to care for the whole person. Such ministrations of Christ-like love add power and definition to the proclamation of the Gospel.

ARTICLE THREE - THE CONFESSIONAL STANDARD

This congregation as a whole and all its members as individuals accept without reservation:

A. All the Canonical Books of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and, therefore, we employ this revelation as the only authority in matters of faith and life.

B. All the confessional writings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of the Year 1580 to be a true and genuine exposition of the Word of God and an exhibition of sound Christian doctrine. These writings include:

1. The Three Ecumenical Creeds - The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, and
The Athanasian Creed;
2. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession;
3. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession;
4. The Smalcald Articles;

5. The Small and Large Catechism of Martin Luther; and
6. The Formula of Concord.

ARTICLE FOUR - SYNODICAL AFFILIATION

This congregation and its Pastor(s) and Teacher(s) shall be members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod so long as the Synod remains faithful to the confessional standard set forth by Hope Lutheran Church contained in Article Three of this Constitution.

ARTICLE FIVE - MEMBERSHIP

The Membership of this congregation shall be comprised of baptized, communicant and voting members. The duties, responsibilities and privileges of membership shall be defined in the Bylaws of this Constitution.

ARTICLE SIX - POWERS OF THE CONGREGATION

- A. In all matters of faith and life the Word of God is the highest authority.
- B. In all matters of oversight of the operations of the congregation, the Voting Membership shall retain the right of ultimate decision. The Voting Membership may delegate to the Board of Directors the operational functions to carry out the mission of this congregation.

ARTICLE SEVEN - THE OFFICE OF PASTOR AND TEACHER AND THEIR CALLING

The Pastoral office of this congregation, as well as that of called Teacher, shall be conferred upon such Pastors, Teachers and/or Candidates who profess and adhere to the confessional standard set forth in Article Three of this Constitution and who are qualified for their work (1 Timothy 3:1-7). The right to call a Pastor or other Called Worker is vested in the

congregation exercised through the Voters' Assembly, never any individual or part thereof.

ARTICLE EIGHT - OFFICERS

The Officers of this congregation shall be those prescribed in the Bylaws of this Constitution.

ARTICLE NINE - PROPERTY RIGHTS

Under normal conditions all property with its inherent rights and liabilities shall be the possession of the congregation and held in its corporate name. If at any time there is a separation of part of the membership on account of doctrine, the property of the congregation and all benefits therewith connected shall remain with the members who continue to adhere in confession and practice to Article Three of this Constitution. In the event of the dissolution of this congregation, all disposition of property shall be assigned to a majority of the remaining members to satisfy justly claimed congregational debts, with any surplus to be conveyed to the Texas District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod or another 501(c)(3) organization at its final Voters' Assembly.

ARTICLE TEN - BYLAWS

The voting membership of this congregation shall have the power to make, alter or rescind any Bylaws that are required to accomplish the purposes of this congregation.

ARTICLE ELEVEN - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution of this congregation may be proposed in written form at any properly convened Voters' Assembly. Upon the informed consent of a majority of the members present, a copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be mailed to the membership along with notification of the time and date of the meeting at which it (they) will be debated and voted upon. A two-thirds vote of those present shall be required to amend this Constitution. After an amendment has been

adopted, it shall be submitted to the District Committee on Constitutions for ratification.

THE BYLAWS OF THE CONSTITUTION
OF
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
FRIENDSWOOD, TEXAS

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION ONE. BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP

All children and adults baptized in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and who are under the Pastoral care of this congregation shall comprise the baptized membership.

SECTION TWO. COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP

The communicant membership of this congregation shall consist of those individuals who have been instructed in the Christian faith, who are familiar with the doctrine and Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and who make public affirmation of that faith and its practice in a public worship service of this congregation.

SECTION THREE. VOTING MEMBERSHIP

Any communicant member of this congregation who is 18 years of age, regardless of gender, shall be eligible to participate and vote in the Voters' Assembly of the congregation. Each member should have read and familiarized himself with the Constitution and these Bylaws.

The Voting Membership shall be defined as those qualified voters present at a regular or specially called Voters' Assembly.

It shall be the sole right of the Voting Membership through an

assembly to call a Pastor, to approve and amend a budget and to consent to major property changes, for example, a capital campaign or building program.

ARTICLE II: MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

SECTION ONE. REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the Voting Membership shall be held annually to conduct the election of the members of the Board of Directors, to approve a Spending Plan for the coming fiscal year, and to conduct any other business pertaining to and supporting the Vision and Mission of the congregation. At the Voters' Assembly at which elections are held the Senior Pastor will present the State of the Parish report. Attending Voting Members of a properly called Voters' Assembly shall constitute a quorum. In the event of a tie vote, a motion is defeated. There shall be no voting by proxy. "Roberts Rules of Order-Newly Revised" shall be used to conduct the business of the assembly.

SECTION TWO. SPECIAL MEETINGS

The Board of Directors or the Senior Pastor, at his discretion, or at the request of fifteen Voting Members of the congregation present at the previous Voters' Assembly, may call a special Voters' Assembly. Notice of the date, time and nature of the business to be transacted shall be given at the worship services on the two Sundays immediately preceding the time of the meeting.

ARTICLE III: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION ONE. NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURE

The Board of Directors shall appoint three (3) qualified voting members who, together with the Senior Pastor, shall serve as the Nominating Committee. Through published and verbal

announcements, the committee shall solicit from the congregation names of candidates for office. Additional names may be submitted by Voting Members to any member of the Nominating Committee until such time as the ballot is published.

The Nominating Committee shall investigate the status of proposed candidates to determine that they are members in good standing, eligible for office, and willing to serve. Candidates must be communicant members of the congregation who are 21 years of age or older.

The ballot shall be published no later than three (3) Sundays preceding the Annual Voters' Assembly. No names shall be added to the ballot following the publication.

Officers and Directors shall be elected by ballot and by simple majority at the annual Voters' Assembly designated for elections.

SECTION TWO. OFFICERS OF THE CONGREGATION AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Officers of the congregation shall be the President, the Vice President and the Treasurer. These Officers shall also serve as officers of the Corporation. The Senior Pastor shall serve as the permanent Secretary of the Corporation.

At the first meeting of the Board of Directors after an election, the Board shall elect its Chairman and appoint a Recording Secretary.

SECTION THREE. INSTALLATION AND TERM OF OFFICE

The newly elected Officers and Directors of the congregation shall be installed on any Sunday following their election and shall assume their duties of office at such time.

The term of office of all Officers, Directors, and appointed Board Members shall be three years, terminating upon the installation of their replacements. The terms of Officers and Directors shall be appropriately staggered so that smooth operation of the

congregation continues. Self-succession shall be limited to one term. Vacated, unexpired terms shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV: GENERAL DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION ONE. EMPOWERMENT

The Board of Directors shall be subject to the Word of God in all matters, in order that the business of this congregation be conducted decently and in order. It shall operate on behalf of the Voting Membership between meetings of the congregation and shall be empowered to conduct the business of the congregation except for those matters restricted to the Voters' Assembly.

SECTION TWO. POLICY GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors shall be a policy governance board. Its primary responsibility is to shepherd the Vision and Mission of this congregation, from which all activity flows, through policies directing the Senior Pastor and Staff, committees and/or task forces to accomplish its goals. The Board of Directors in its regular meetings concerns itself with the ends, not the means, and the policy necessary to carry out the ends. A policy manual will be prepared and maintained by the Board which defines fiscal policy and operations, personnel matters, task force and committee chartering, and other Board responsibilities and congregational functions.

SECTION THREE. CALLING A SENIOR PASTOR

When the Office of Senior Pastor becomes vacant or will soon be vacant, the Board of Directors shall charter a Call Committee to provide a candidate(s) for the Pastoral Office to the Voters' Assembly for approval of a call. The Call Committee shall seek the assistance of the Texas District to facilitate its purpose. Criteria for the Office are delineated in the Position Description of the

Senior Pastor. A majority vote of the assembly is necessary to extend a call.

SECTION FOUR. CALLING OTHER CHURCH WORKERS

When a vacancy occurs in an existing position of a Called Worker or when there is an addition of a position(s) of a Called Worker, the Senior Pastor shall initiate the call process by requesting a chartered Call Committee by the Board of Directors. Upon fulfillment of the charter, the candidate(s) will be presented to the Voters' Assembly for approval of a call(s). A majority vote of the assembly is necessary to extend a call.

ARTICLE V: IMPLEMENTATION AND AMENDMENT

SECTION ONE. IMPLEMENTATION

These Bylaws shall be made operative at the discretion of the Voting Membership in Assembly as they deem necessary, and, as growth and necessity dictate, to revise and amend these Bylaws as to best serve this congregation in its mission of extending the Kingdom of God. These Bylaws or the Policies of Hope Lutheran Church will not conflict with the Bylaws of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

SECTION TWO. AMENDMENT

Amendment of these Bylaws shall be made in the following manner: The Voting Membership of the congregation shall be notified of the availability of printed copies of the amendment(s) at least two (2) Sundays prior to a meeting of the Voters' Assembly. At this meeting, the vote shall be taken on the amendment(s) and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Voting Members present shall secure adoption. Upon adoption, such amendment(s) shall be submitted to the District Committee on Constitutions for ratification, in accordance with the Synod's Bylaws.

Revised 7 August 2002
Revised 27 April 2012
Approved 26 January 2014